

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ACCRA 09546 031653Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 CIAE-00
EB-08 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-03 PM-08
CAB-05 DOTE-00 STR-14 FAA-00 SP-02 /085 W
-----371051 040332Z /63

R 031438Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8402
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS
DIA WASHINGTON DC//AT-6/DB-3D/DC-4A/JSI-5B//

S E C R E T ACCRA 09546

NORFORN

DAKAR FOR FAA

E.O.12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PBTS, MOPS, EAIR, GH
SUBJ: GHANA WARNS AGAINST AIRSPACE INTRUSIONS; FRENCH
- REPORTEDLY CULPRITS

1. (C) WHAT APPEARED AT FIRST TO BE A BIZARRE OVER-
REACTION BY THE GHANAIAN GOVERNMENT TO POSSIBLE SIGHTINGS
OF UFO'S SEEMS NOW TO HAVE BEEN A SERIOUS REACTION TO
REAL INTRUSIONS INTO GHANA'S AIRSPACE, ALLEGEDLY BY
FRENCH AIRCRAFT.

2. (U) IN A NOTE ADDRESSED TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS IN ACCRA OCT 31, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ACCRA 09546 031653Z

REFERRED TO "THE INCREASING VIOLATION OF GHANA'S AIRSPACE BY FOREIGN AIRCRAFT," ADDING THAT THE VIOLATIONS "REACHED A PEAK" OCT 29 AND 30. ALL MISSIONS WERE ASKED TO INFORM THEIR GOVERNMENTS OF THE GHANAIAN GOVERNMENT'S SERIOUS CONCERN, AND WERE WARNED THAT "COUNTRIES OF ANY AIRCRAFT WHICH VIOLATE GHANA'S AIRSPACE IN FUTURE WILL BE HELD

FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES...."

3. (C) FOREIGN SECRETARY DR. OBED ASAMOAH CONVOKED ALL CHIEFS OF MISSION LATE IN THE AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 1 TO MAKE THE SAME POINTS PERSONALLY AND TO ASK THE CORPS TO ADVISE THEIR RESPECTIVE AIRLINES WHICH FLY WITHIN THIS AREA THAT GHANA WOULD TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT ITS SOVEREIGNTY. HE SAID THE WARNING APPLIED TO BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY FLIGHTS. ALTHOUGH HE FAILED TO SPELL OUT WHAT STEPS GHANA CONTEMPLATED, HE INDICATED THAT THEY DID NOT INCLUDE SHOOTING DOWN COMMERCIAL AIRLINERS. (COMMENT: GHANA'S ABILITY TO INTERCEPT INTRUDERS IS VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT.)

4. (S/NFN) ON NOV 2 A RELIABLE SOURCE TOLD OUR DEFENSE ATTACHE THAT THE INTRUSIONS WERE BY THREE FRENCH MILITARY PLANES. THE FLIGHTS POSSIBLY ORIGINATED AND ENDED IN TOGO THE EVENING OF OCT 29. ONE OF THE PLANES ALLEGEDLY DISCHARGED A ROCKET THAT EXPLODED WITHIN GHANAIAN AIR-SPACE NEAR DEVO. THERE WAS ALSO A UTA SCHEDULED FLIGHT BETWEEN LOME AND PARIS JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT OCT 29.

5. (C) THE PILOT OF THE DAO C-12, WHICH WAS FLYING NEAR KUMASI ON NOV 1, REPORTED PICKING UP RADIO SIGNALS APPARENTLY FROM PAN AM FLIGHT CLIPPER 118, BUT THERE WAS NO INDICATION THE PLANE WAS VIOLATING GHANA'S AIRSPACE.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 ACCRA 09546 031653Z

6. (C) COMMENT: APART FROM THE C-12'S PICK-UP, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT ANY U.S. AIRCRAFT MAY HAVE INTRUDED INTO GHANA. BECAUSE OF OUR DESIRE NOT TO AGGRAVATE THIS GOVERNMENT'S SUSPICIONS OF THE U.S., HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ASK PAN AM AND U.S. CARRIERS WHO OPERATE CHARTER FLIGHTS NEAR GHANA TO MAKE SURE THEIR PILOTS ARE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL NOT TO STRAY FROM AUTHORIZED FLIGHT PATHS. FRITTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRSPACE, FRENCH, REPORT, VIOLATION, AIRCRAFT, INTRUSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ACCRA09546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: R9
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D830645-0887
From: ACCRA OR-M
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731156/aaaabpdq.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <29-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GHANA WARNS AGAINST AIRSPACE INTRUSIONS; FRENCH - REPORTEDLY CULPRITS
TAGS: PBTS, MOPS, EAIR, GH
To: STATE ABIDJAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005